

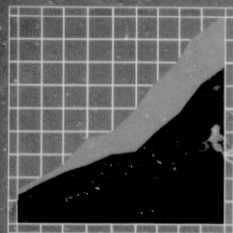
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 16 April 1992

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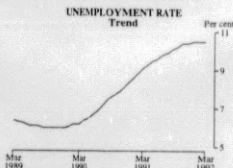
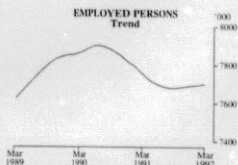
There will be no *Statistics Weekly* next week.
The next issue will be released on
Thursday, 30 April 1992.



Statistics

Unemployment steady at 10.5 per cent

While the unemployment rate remained steady in March 1992, the seasonally adjusted estimate of employment fell. Falls in female full-time employment and male part-time employment outweighed an increase in female part-time employment. These falls were accompanied by falls in the number of unemployed persons and in the participation rate.



Employment

The March 1992 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,690,700, a fall from February 1992. Full-time employment fell by 16,600 to 5,903,100. While the number of males employed full time was relatively steady, female full-time employment fell 17,900 to 1,891,400. Total part-time employment rose by 1,900 to 1,787,600, with part-time employment falling by 12,900 for males, and rising by 14,800 for females. Trend estimates of full-time employed persons have continued to decline since July 1990, although the trend estimates of total employed persons have shown small but steady increases for the last six months.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for March 1992 was 900,100, a fall of 7,700 since February. Male unemployment rose 5,400 to 551,900, mainly due to the number of males seeking full-time work increasing by 11,200. For females, unemployment fell 13,100 to 348,200, with females seeking full-time employment contributing 11,100 to the fall.

The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) for March 1992 was steady at 10.5 per cent. The male unemployment rate was 11.0 per cent (up 0.1 percentage points), while the female unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 9.7 per cent. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate has now steadied after increasing throughout 1991.

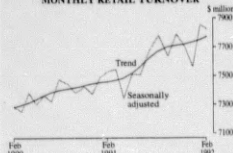
Participation rate

The labour force participation rate (seasonally adjusted) for March 1992 was 63.0 per cent compared with 63.2 per cent in February 1992. The male participation rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 74.4 per cent, while the female participation rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 51.8 per cent. The trend participation rate, remains steady at 63.1 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate	Participa- tion rate — per cent —
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total			
	— '000 —					
1992 —						
January	5,963.3	1,754.7	7,717.9	894.1	10.4	63.3
February	5,919.7	1,785.7	7,705.5	907.8	10.5	63.2
March	5,903.1	1,787.6	7,690.7	900.1	10.5	63.0

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



Retail trade trend improves

The seasonally adjusted estimate of turnover for retail and selected service establishments fell by 0.3 per cent in February 1992 following a large rise of 3.8 per cent in January. The trend estimate is now slightly stronger than previously estimated with an average monthly growth rate over the three months to February of 0.2 per cent. The annual growth rate (February 1992 over February 1991) is 4.2 per cent, an average monthly growth of 0.4 per cent.

The clothing and fabric stores industry is the only major industry showing strong growth over the last three months (1.4 per cent per month). The total food group is showing growth of 0.2 per cent per month over that period. The grocery industry is still showing no growth while department and general stores are now showing slight growth averaging 0.3 per cent per month. The rate of decline in the hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs industry is easing.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in February 1992 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended February 1992	12 months ended February 1992
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,199	0.0	0.4
Butchers	168	-0.1	-0.2
Other food stores	527	0.9	0.9
Total food group	2894	0.2	0.4
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	911	-0.2	-0.4
Department and general stores	659	0.3	0.5
Clothing and fabrics stores	471	1.4	0.6
Electrical stores	391	0.6	-0.1
Pharmacies	297	-0.3	0.7
Newsagents	271	0.2	0.6
Other industries	1,234	n.a.	n.a.
All industries	7,128	0.2	0.4

Following a period of weak growth Tasmania is now showing the strongest growth rate over the past three months (0.7 per cent per month). The table below shows the trends in other States.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER
Percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
1991 —								
October	-0.1	0.0	1.0	-0.3	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.1
November	-0.1	-0.1	0.8	-0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.1
December	0.1	-0.1	0.7	-0.5	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.2
1992 —								
January	0.3	-0.1	0.5	-0.4	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.2
February	0.3	0.1	0.4	-0.2	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.3

Just under half of 15 to 24 year olds in education

The annual survey of participation in education showed that of the 15 to 24 year old population, 48 per cent (1,307,600) were students attending either a school or a tertiary educational institution in September 1991.

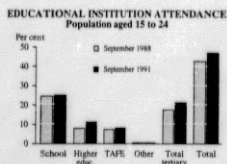
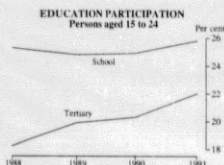
The first such survey run in September 1988 found 44 per cent (1,174,600) of the 15 to 24 year old population participating in education. Since then there has been a steady upward trend, with the strongest increase occurring in tertiary education.

The 1991 estimate comprises 706,200 school students, 325,100 higher education students, 239,700 TAFE students and 36,500 students attending other tertiary educational institutions.

The estimates of 15 to 19 year olds at either a school or tertiary institution combined to produce an education participation rate of 71 per cent for this age group. Among 20 to 24 year olds, with most schooling and some tertiary studies already completed, the education participation rate stood at a much lower 25 per cent.

Degree courses were the most popular among the 601,400 tertiary students with 48 per cent studying for this level of qualification. Another 31 per cent of tertiary students were studying for a certificate or diploma, 17 per cent for a trade qualification, 2 per cent were upgrading their school qualifications and 3 per cent were seeking other post-school qualifications.

Male to female student ratios for 15 to 24 year olds were approximately the same for schools and higher education institutions in September 1991. At TAFE however, 62 per cent of enrolments in this age group were male.

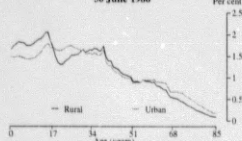


EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AND TYPE OF INSTITUTION, SEPTEMBER 1991
Persons aged 15 to 24
'000

Educational institution	Males	Females	Persons
Attending school	355.7	350.5	706.2
Attending tertiary	327.4	274.0	601.4
Higher education	164.8	160.3	325.1
TAFE	149.0	90.7	239.7
Other	13.6	22.9	36.5
Total attending	683.1	624.5	1,307.6
All persons	1,385.5	1,346.7	2,732.2

For further information, order the publication *Participation in Education, Australia* (6272.0), (formerly *Labour Force Status and Educational Attendance, Australia*) or contact Nicole Wittmann on (06) 252 6578.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION
30 June 1986



Australia's rural population

A new Australian Bureau of Statistics publication, *Rural Australia*, presents a detailed analysis of the 2.3 million people who lived in the rural areas of Australia at the time of the 1986 Census.

The 30-page report examines the growth, distribution, demographic characteristics, education, work experience and income, and living arrangements of people who were living in rural areas in 1986.

Among the broad aggregates, three in four rural Australians lived in New South Wales, Queensland or Victoria, reflecting these States' large regions amenable to agricultural development. In comparison to the urban population, rural people were highly represented in Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory (over 20% of the State/Territory population). About 12 per cent of people in New South Wales and Victoria lived in rural areas. The Australian Capital Territory had virtually no rural population.

RURAL POPULATION

	Number ('000)		Per cent of total population	
	1976	1986	1976	1986
NSW	531	650	11	12
Vic.	441	501	12	13
Qld	402	543	20	21
SA	186	206	15	15
WA	186	211	16	15
Tas.	100	111	25	25
NT	32	43	33	28
ACT	3	2	2	1
Australia	1,882	2,267	14	15

Queensland experienced the greatest growth in rural population between 1976 and 1986, increasing by 35 per cent. In the Northern Territory the increase was 34 per cent and in New South Wales, 22 per cent. Contrary to the national trend, the proportion of population living in rural areas declined in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

For further information, order the publication *Rural Australia* (2507.0), or contact Dot Russell on (06) 252 6214.

Overseas visitors — in brief

In February 1992 the number of overseas visitor arrivals was 238,200, 25 per cent more than in February 1991.

The major source countries were: Japan with 54,000 (23% of total), the United Kingdom with 34,300 (14%), the USA with 25,100 (11%) and New Zealand with 24,100 (10%). These four major source countries accounted for 58 per cent of all visitor arrivals. Visitors from Japan increased very significantly compared with February 1991 (48%).

Source: *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, February 1992* (3401.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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ABS State Offices

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WA (09) 323 5140
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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon
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Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
16 April 1992

All the week's releases: 8 to 14 April

General

- Publications Issued in March 1992 (1102.0; \$6.00)
- Publications Advice, 10 April 1992 (1105.0; free)
- Publications Advice, 14 April 1992 (1105.0; free)
- Striking a Balance!, 1991 (1314.0; \$24.50) — *new issue*
- Statistics Weekly, 9 April 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
- Economic Indicators, Vic., March 1992 (1307.2; \$10.50)
- Cause of Death Certification, NT, 1992 (1205.7; free) — *new issue*
- Northern Territory in Focus, 1992 (1306.7; \$19.50) (*Previously: Northern Territory Statistical Summary*)

Census of Population and Housing

- First Counts for Statistical Local Area, NSW, 6 August 1991 (2701.1; \$20.00) — *new issue*

Demography

- Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., February 1992 (3401.0; \$6.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Imports, February 1992 (5433.0; \$9.50)
- Local Government Finance, SA, 1990-91 (5502.4; \$10.50)

Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., March 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
- The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, March 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)
- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., February 1992 (6312.0; \$11.00)
- Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., March 1992 (6410.0; \$5.50)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., February 1992 (6415.0; \$10.50)

Agriculture

- Livestock and Livestock Products, Vic., 1990-91 (7221.2; \$21.00)
- Livestock and Livestock Products, Qld, 1990-91 (7221.3; \$16.00)
- Fruit, Qld, 1990-91 (7322.3; \$12.50)
- Agricultural Land Use and Selected Inputs, Qld, 1990-91 (7411.3; \$10.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, January 1992 (8359.0; \$10.50)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, February 1992 (8369.0; \$6.00)
- Retail Trade, Aust., February 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, February 1992 (8504.0; \$10.50)
- Tourist Accommodation, NSW, December Qtr 1991 (8635.1; \$20.00)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, December 1991 (8741.1; \$10.50)
- Tourist Accommodation, Vic., December Qtr 1991 (8635.2; \$20.00)
- Building Activity, Vic., December Qtr 1991 (8752.2; \$10.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, November 1991 (8741.3; \$10.50)
- Building Activity, Qld, December Qtr 1991 (8752.3; \$10.50)
- Building Activity, SA, December Qtr 1991 (8752.4; \$10.50)
- Building Approvals, Tas., February 1992 (8731.6; \$10.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 28 April 1992

April

- 15** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, February 1992 (\$609.0; \$10.50)
- 16** Export Price Index, Australia, February 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
- 23** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, February 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, February 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
- 27** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, February 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, February 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, March 1992 Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- 28** Manufacturing Production, Australia, March 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
14 April 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 91)*	-25.6	-17.7	-10.8	-3.6	1.1	-51.4	n.a.	n.a.	-17.4
Retail turnover (Feb. 92) (trend estimate)	4.5	2.2	5.3	-1.1	8.2	3.6	n.a.	9.4	4.2
New motor vehicle registrations (Feb. 92)†	-4.1	14.4	5.6	1.6	10.1	8.4	30.1	-15.9	3.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Feb. 92)	13.0	10.0	29.2	-17.2	8.0	8.4	187.7	135.3	16.2
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr 91)	-10.1	-34.2	-7.1	-24.4	-18.7	8.6	-9.6	0.5	-17.2
Employed persons (Mar. 92)*	0.0	-2.2	2.0	-2.7	0.3	-3.8	4.2	-1.6	-0.5
Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 91)	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	-0.1	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.5
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Nov. 91)	4.7	4.1	3.0	5.3	4.3	3.0	4.8	4.0	4.2
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Sept. qtr 91)	-0.9	2.2	11.4	-1.5	3.7	-1.0	0.4	-5.7	3.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
March 1992



Key national indicators – consolidated to 14 April 1992

			Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production							
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m		Dec. qtr 91	n.a.	64,075	0.3	-0.5
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m		Dec. qtr 91	6,253	5,696	-12.6	-17.7
— 1984-85 prices			"	4,921	4,487	-11.4	-14.5
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to June 92	"	11,732	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Feb. 92	"	7,128	7,827	-0.3	3.9
— 1984-85 prices	"	Dec. qtr 91	"	17,320	15,356	-0.8	7.0
New motor vehicle registrations (e)	no.	Feb. 92	"	41,089	44,624	-3.5	3.8
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Feb. 92	"	11,453	11,882	-7.4	13.8
Value of all building approvals	\$m		"	1,555	1,751	-0.8	-18.9
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	"	6,026	5,825	-8.2	-17.2
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	"	3,828	3,701	-7.8	-16.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Dec. qtr 91	"	36,551	34,813	-0.9	-3.4
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	"	25,418	24,215	-1.0	-2.8
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to June 92	"	69,535	n.a.	n.a.	-3.2
Labour							
Employed persons	'000		Mar. 92	7,704.4	7,690.7	-0.2	-0.5
Unemployment rate †	%		"	11.0	10.5	-0.1	1.4
Participation rate †	"		"	63.4	63.0	-0.2	-0.4
Job vacancies	'000		Feb. 92	27.6	26.6	3.1	-4.5
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours		"	1.10	1.12	5.7	-6.3
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index 1980-81 = 100.0			Dec. qtr 91	217.7	n.a.	0.9	1.5
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0			Jan. 92	120.9	n.a.	-0.2	-3.7
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0			Jan. 92	111.6	n.a.	-0.1	-0.3
Company profits before income tax	\$m		Sept. qtr 91	2,982	2,841	21.2	-17.9
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$		Nov. 91	578.80	n.a.	2.0	4.2
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Feb. 92	7.50	n.a.	-0.05	-4.15
10-year Treasury bonds †	"		"	10.00	n.a.	-0.10	-1.55
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m		Feb. 92	4,622	4,645	4.3	5.4
Imports of merchandise	"		"	3,930	4,132	2.0	-1.8
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"		"	692	513	27.6	159.1
Balance of goods and services (c)	"		"	744	343	54.5	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"		"	-317	-667	26.2	44.2
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Dec. qtr 91	n.a.	97.1	-2.9	-4.5
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m		31 Dec. 91	144,772	n.a.	2.7	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"		"	194,273	n.a.	4.3	10.5
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
\$US	per \$A		Feb. 92	0.7519	n.a.	0.5	-4.1
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	56.2	n.a.	1.4	-1.9
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000		Feb. 92	238	209	1.7	17.6

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 15 April 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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